

Saipan Tribune

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I N S I D E

Around the CNMI

Around the CNMI

‘Parts needed by CUC available on eBay’



AIRPORT DRILL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police and Kosrae International Airport officers performed immediate response techniques during its three-day full-scale airport drill on May 20 as part of the Federal Aviation Administration-Pacific program. The training was jointly coordinated by FAA officials Barry Bayer, Honolulu Fire Transportation officer Ron Simpson and CPA-ARFF chief Stanley Torres Jr.

60th anniversary committee tags 17 tour sites, 7 historical markers

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Committee for the 60th Anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian has identified 17 coach tour sites and five historical markers that need sprucing up in preparation for the month-long celebration of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

Beautification Committee chair Cynthia Martin said businesses and resident owners are invited to help government efforts in keeping the islands clean for the commemoration event.

The Saipan cleanup is an ongoing project of the government but efforts are now being directed toward cleaning up sites related to the World War II commemoration.

“Saipan needs all the residents’ continuing efforts to keep the island clean and beautiful. While the 60th anniversary celebration events begin officially on June 12, the first cruise ship and visitors will arrive on June 5,” said Martin.

She added that special tours are planned for visitors, including returning veterans and their families. “Businesses and homes on any of these routes are especially important to maintain,” she said.

She urged businesses and residences to remove debris from around their property, trim dead limbs from trees, replace broken signs and fences, remove outdated signs from windows, power wash mold on buildings, signs and fences, mow vacant lots and remove cuttings, remove equipment or damaged cars from sight, clean steps and walkways, re-stripe parking areas, paint or replace

damaged garbage containers, and repaint buildings.

The list of tour sites that businesses and resident owners should take particular concern are areas near the old Japanese hospital, the Sugar King Park, Old Japanese jail, bunker/ Japanese tanks, Japanese bunker, Sugar Dock, Japanese air raid shelter, fuel storage bunkers, As Lito Airfield complex, 27th Infantry, 73rd bomb wing memorial, Hill 500, Susupe Lake area, Kannat Tabla Japanese cannon, U.S. bomb storage bunker, Banzai Cliff, Japanese Last Command Post, Japanese Peace Memorial, Okinawan Peace Memorial, Korean Peace Memorial, and the Suicide Cliff.

Historical markers can be found at the Banzai Cliff, Mount Tapochao, As Lito Airfield complex, Quarter Master Beach Park, Chalan Kanoa Cathedral, and Afetna Beach Park.

Also, the Historical Preservation Office disclosed Friday that it would start the American Memorial Park’s Wayside Exhibit Panels.

According to Genevieve Cabrera, the project was an offshoot of the park’s Visitors Center Exhibit Design Project.

“It incorporates panel narrative [with photographs] at twelve key World War II sites on Saipan. The subcommittee that worked on this project had requested that additional panels be placed on Tinian, but because of budget and time constraints, only the twelve panels for Saipan were selected for completion prior to the 60th Anniversary of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian. The Tinian panels would be installed at a later time,” said Cabrera.

The committee would be

meeting at Mt. Tapotchao on Tuesday at 10am. Presently, there are five panels altogether at the peak —four at the southernmost periphery and one near the statue of Christ.

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Major businesses in the Commonwealth have sounded the alarm on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s inability to provide sufficient power supply due to non-performing power plants in Lower Base.

Legislators also disclosed that power outages are likely to happen all the more now that CUC officials revealed that parts needed for the repair of two Power Plant 2 engines in Lower Base have yet to arrive.

During Friday’s hearing at the House chamber CUC officials said the parts for the power engines are still being manufactured and there is no definite date yet as to when it would arrive on island.

But immediate inquiry made by the Legislature disclosed that the parts—which CUC claimed are designed to be manufactured upon order—are sold over the Internet on eBay at \$200,000 apiece.

“CUC officials said that manufacturers would make the parts when they place the order

and it is still being manufactured. But legislative staffers checked the Internet and found the exact item on eBay. The item is sold at \$200,000. They should check eBay” said a House official Friday.

The oversight hearing was called by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, which is chaired by Rep. Timothy Villagomez, a former CUC executive director.

Also, PUTC officials and members were surprised that the two power plants at Lower Base are up to be decommissioned within the year and are up for privatization.

“Are you saying that the CUC board has already approved to go ahead with the privatization of the power plants?” asked Rep. Arnold Palacios repeatedly during the hearing.

Majority of the CUC board voted to pursue the privatization since summer 2003. CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan said that CUC is tapping the expertise of Harris Group consultancy on the project.

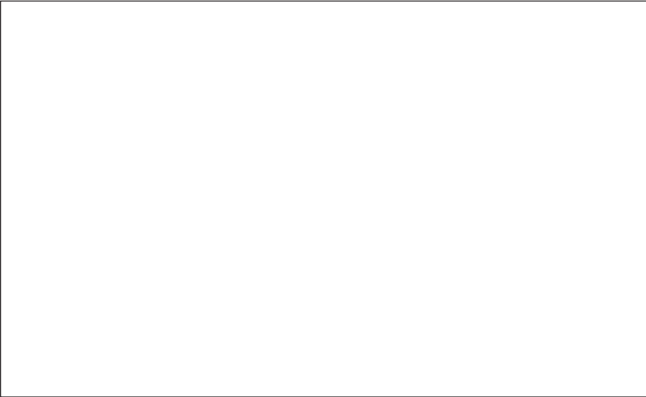
He said the consultant has

completed the scope of work for the project’s Request for Proposal. At this time, Harris Group is looking at the project’s pre-qualification bid.

According to CUC, there is no power crisis but of its four power plants—two in Lower Base, one in Isley Field, which is not operational; and the Puerto Rico power plant, which is being petitioned by local residents to be relocated due to noise and alleged environmental pollution—only two are working. The power plants 1 and 2 are up for privatization.


mcd

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.






















KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

South Korea comes of age

South Korea's democracy has reached the point at which protests occur at the ballot box rather than in the streets. The country rid itself of rule by generals less than two decades ago, but the calm acceptance of the impeachment of President Roh Moo Hyun and his recent reinstatement demonstrate a reassuring familiarity with rule by law rather than bayonet.

The National Assembly's quarrel with Roh escalated out of all proportion this year and never should have resulted in impeachment.

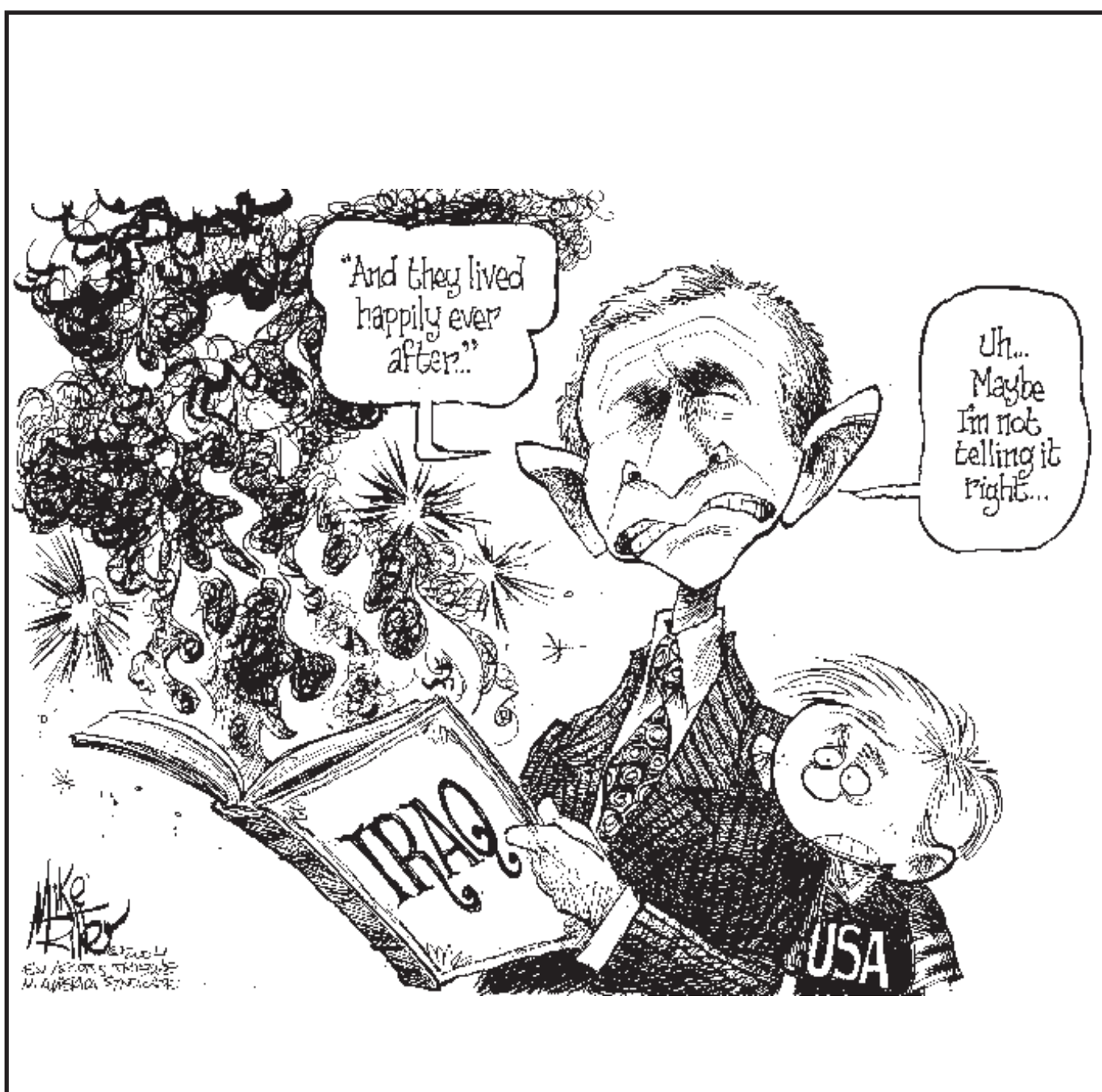
His conservative opponents in the legislature claimed that Roh's remarks in a television interview violated election laws on presidential neutrality. The foes demanded an apology, the president refused and the snowball kept rolling downhill.

After the impeachment forced Roh to let Prime Minister Ko Kon serve as acting president, elections for the National Assembly gave voters a chance for revenge. Roh's supporters won a convincing victory; South Korea will be dominated by leftist parties, for the first time, when the new legislature takes office Tuesday. Little more than a week ago, the Constitutional Court delivered the opinion everyone expected: The impeachment was unjustified.

What's left of the conservative caucus in the legislature will have to find a way to get along with the president if its members want to retain their seats. But Roh should also be more willing to listen to his opponents, especially on the economy. Seoul will need a Plan B if China, South Korea's largest trading partner, follows up on its intention to slow its explosive growth.

Roh has worked to improve relations with Washington and to overcome his pre-presidency reputation as anti-American. Roh took in stride the announcement last week that 3,600 of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea would be transferred to Iraq. South Korea has sent more than 400 army medics and engineers to Iraq, and Roh has promised 3,200 more. How he balances leftist supporters' demands that he not send additional soldiers against conservatives' insistence that he live up to his agreement with the United States may indicate how much of a political lesson impeachment has taught him.

Los Angeles Times



Let's get rid of learning factories

By **HUGH OSBORN** and **MARGARET GAYLE**
Special to The Washington Post

The No Child Left Behind Act may be underfunded, but that is not what is wrong with it. Although it is a well-meaning attempt to bring up the lowest third of our students, its real problem is that it amplifies one of the worst aspects of American education: its mechanical, rote nature.

Early in the last century, foundations set up by industrialists helped design our schools to prepare children for factory lives. Kids were to live by the bell, move through schools as if on conveyor belts and, especially, learn to follow instructions. Then they could work in the rapidly proliferating factories.

But the descendants of these corporate barons have shipped those factories overseas. We have factory-based schools in an Information Age—and no factories. The innovative thinking we need to compete in the global economy is not on the agenda.

This factory-based approach, however, is locked in by political gridlock. The right believes in a back-to-the-basics form of education with strict assessment. The No Child Left Behind Act, for instance, encourages rote learning by aligning highly specified lessons with mechanized tests.

The left, meanwhile, has been open to more enlightened forms of learning, but it also supports the teachers unions, which oppose school choice. The outcome is the worst of both worlds: endless, mechanistic test prep and very limited choice. Our kids are paying the price, as seen in the 30 percent dropout rate.

We can do better than this. Here are five reasonable, common-sense principles on which to rebuild our school system:

□ Engage the students. It is obvious that we learn when interested and motivated, and we don't learn—and are

more likely to drop out—when we are bored. This should shock nobody.

□ Use the power of information technology. Our kids live on technology, which can supply not only the infrastructure for learning but also the spectacular learning techniques developed in the games market. Cognitive researchers are finding that games have become intense learning systems that don't rely on drilling and testing. Stripped of their violence, they are a central part of the solution.

□ Get our kids into the real world. Activities must be designed that encourage expeditions to museums, libraries, parks and historical sites and get children involved in their communities. Kids must not be slaves to tests or their computer screens.

□ Return to social learning. Teachers in our one-room schoolhouses used older students as assistants with younger kids. It worked. The older children derived a sense of self-worth, importance and belonging. They learned social skills, had the powerful learning experience that teaching provides and made learning look cool to younger kids. It made the school a real community—not an age-segregated aberration—and made teaching extremely effective.

□ Use the free market. Web-based publishers should make Internet learning games available directly to parents at reasonable prices. This partial home schooling provides educational choice without the drastic measures of full home schooling, private school or vouchers.

MIT and other universities are working to evolve our thinking about advanced uses of technology in education. America leads the world in scientific research, technology, entertainment and many other areas. Why can't we lead in education?

Osborn is an educational consultant; Gayle is executive director of the American Association for Gifted Children at Duke University.



By RUTH L. TIGHE

Well, it's finally here—the commemoration of the battles of Saipan and Tinian; nearly a week of formal observances started last night. It's interesting how narrowly focused it is, honoring only the actions of the American military, commemorating only those two battles—events which took place more than half a century—and two generations—ago. But the Saipan and Tinian battles were only one of several. Battles were also fought on other islands of the Pacific—on Peleliu and Corregidor and Luzon. Many others, besides Americans, lost their lives in those battles as well. Yet there is only one event commemorating local islanders' losses, and none commemorating all the others.

Particularly in light of the close relationship the CNMI has developed with Japan, one would have thought that the deaths of the many Japanese military would also have been honored. But only one ecumenical note occurs during the entire time, on June 15th, when an interfaith memorial service is scheduled to be held for “each and every life lost”—but only in the battles, only for those for Saipan and Tinian.

Moreover, despite the on-going battles in Afghanistan and Iraq, today's climate calls for universality, for an honoring of all peoples, for a focus on peace, not war. It's not the death, deprivation, destruction that should be forever remembered; it is the outcome of the war—the general peace, the political freedoms, the economic successes, and the plenitude so many more people enjoy today than did 60 years ago, that should be remembered. But there's little trace of that in the week's events, either.

Yes, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas would likely not be in existence today if the outcome of the war had been different. And yes, the Americans who fought here deserve recognition and appreciation. But how much more regenerative it would have been if the commemoration had been more ecumenical.

□ □ □

On the topic of things ecumenical, readers might be interested in a new show broadcast on public radio station KRNK (88.1 FM, 89.1 FM, depending on your location) called “Justice Talking.” It airs every Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm. Topics tackled on the show in recent weeks have included prison reform, rape laws, drug testing, and the desirability of manned flights to Mars.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Jobs for graduates

I had the great pleasure of attending the Northern Mariana College graduation exercises last week. Among the graduates was the mother of five of my grandchildren. Living solely from my son's government job, she managed to get her college degree and take care of my son and five children at the same time.

She, like her contemporaries, was duly pleased with the event. She had achieved one of her life's goals. As she turned the tassel on her cap, Carmen saw my son grinning from ear to ear. Carmen said, “Why are you so happy?”

Rich smiled his famous cheesy grin and said, “Payday!”

Celina and her classmates who had received their BS in education were pretty much guaranteed jobs somewhere in the Marianas, most of them on their home island. Moreover, they will be entering the job market at \$28K plus. For Celina and her family, the age-old promise of, “work hard in school so you can get a good job” was coming to fruition. She will get an air-conditioned classroom, probably on Tinian, and the money she makes will be enough to pay off the debts they accumulated while she was in school. After several years of sacrifice, they will have a little cash left over after payday to finally enjoy an evening out with their children.

The next morning we rose from our beds at PIC and found the paper under our door. There was the anticipated front-page picture of the graduates, smiling at each other after the ceremony. Unfortunately for our proud graduates, they lost the headlines to “Minimum Wage Issue Revived,” and “NMI Non-Resident Workers Up 16%.” The smiling graduates of yesterday were forced to face the sobering thought that even with their newly earned degrees, they would have to compete with nonresident workers for jobs. The outlook for their future suddenly dimmed.

There is a solution to this problem, and it does not require legislative deliberation. It only requires the students to do what the law

At the moment, it is only a temporary filler for a classical music show that the station lost until the Fall. But it's well worth listening to—informative, provocative, interesting.

□ □ □

When are all those critics going to stop issuing blanket indictments of the CNMI's minimum wage law? When are they going to realize that while for some workers, the minimum wage is \$3.05 an hour, for many more, it is not—it is, in fact, more? Are the CNMI's government officials, paid lobbyists, not doing their job?

Imported workers who receive employer-provided health care and subsidized food and housing either directly or through allowances, in addition to their minimum wage, are not earning a mere \$3.05 an hour. They are earning considerably more. To argue that these workers are receiving only CNMI's minimum wage, and therefore the minimum wage must be raised is incorrect, illogical and unreasonable.

On the other hand, the local labor force, which is given neither health care nor subsidized food and housing, is deserving of receiving more than the CNMI's present minimum wage of \$3.50 per hour.

Isn't it high time that the ‘powers that be’ learn to make that distinction? And help the CNMI develop a wage scale that will take those differences into consideration, rather than condemning what they apparently don't understand?

□ □ □

Don Farrell, in his capacity as representative of Azmar, the company which is seeking a permit to mine ash on Pagan, has asked that I note in my column, that “My choice of words was poor in my first statement.” He had said, regarding Pagan's black sand beach, “The question we have to ask ourselves and CNMI citizens [is], is the loss of the black sand beach equal to the millions of dollars in revenue it will create for the citizens of the CNMI?” which I duly quoted in my June 4 column. In response to that column, he wrote to say, “What I should have said was, ‘... is the loss of a portion of the black sand beach equal to the loss of millions of dollars in revenue annually to the entire CNMI?’” (emphasis added)

I'm still having problems picturing the co-existence of harbor functions and recreational activities on the same beach—particularly since that black sand beach isn't all that large to begin with.

□ □ □

One version of Azmar's proposal offers a set-aside of \$3.45 million dollars to be spent over three years to build a village for the people of Pagan. In addition, according to Farrell, Azmar has made a commitment to build an infirmary, associated with CHC, to be the Pagan Health Center. A schoolhouse would also be built, to be made available to the public school system.

What is lacking in this vision of what sounds like a “company” town, is any sort of mechanism for the people of Pagan themselves to play a role in the decision-making. No stakeholder role has been included. In the current humanistic climate, it would seem far more

propitious, appropriate, if the people of Pagan were given a voice in the decision-making process of how such funds were spent, a voice in the design and implementation of whatever does get built there.

While on the subject of Pagan, readers might be interested in checking out the web site “www.chamorro.com/community/pagan/calculator.html” which has been put together to compare potential revenues for the Azmar mining company and the CNMI under a variety of scenarios. Says Pete J.P. Perez, who has taken a significant leadership role in providing information about Azmar's mining proposal to the general public, “The calculator demonstrates that the flat 7 percent of gross sales deal [which is what is being proposed] is extremely one-sided in favor of Azmar and becomes worse as the price goes up and costs of production goes down.”

□ □ □

The full report of the governor's supposed accomplishments on his 10-day trip to Washington and Hawaii has not yet been made—he has not yet returned—but based on reports received so far, there does not seem to have been a compelling reason for the trip. The people of the CNMI, in addition to electing the governor, also elected a separate representative to Washington, D.C. There is nothing in what has been reported so far that could not have been accomplished by the aforesaid Washington Rep. Judging from the governor's inability to let the Washington Rep do his job, maybe a law ought to be passed limiting the term of the Washington Rep—before the incumbent gets so used to that job that he can't function in any other.

□ □ □

Let's see if I've got this right. The 6th CNMI Legislature passed a zoning law, later amended by the 7th and 8th Legislature. In accordance with that law, Saipan and Rota (and Tinian?) adopted local zoning codes for their own islands. But the Saipan local delegation of the 9th Legislature voted to suspend the zoning code for Saipan (which the AG's office claims was not valid, but let's not confuse things). In the meantime, the 14th Legislature has introduced House Bill 14-21 to repeal and re-enact the entire original CNMI-wide zoning law. And just now, the Saipan local delegation has voted, via House Local Bill 14-18, to lift the suspension of Saipan's local zoning code—even though the intention is to immediately amend it. The reason being given is that House Bill 14-21 cannot pass without prior passage of HLB 14-18. Make sense? Not to me!

□ □ □

My apologies to other Cha Cha Junior High School—as well as elementary schools in the Public School System—I had not realized that they, in addition to Hopwood Junior High School, also celebrated the promotion, rather than graduation of their students to the next level of either Junior or Senior High School, in local finery rather than expensive caps and gowns. Let's hope the trend trickles down to all those silly and unnecessarily elaborate and expensive kiddie “graduation” ceremonies.

prescribes and for the Department of Labor and Employment to enforce the laws that are already on the books.

The Nonresident Workers Act, 3CMC, Div. 4 . Sec. 4431 states, “Any employer who desires to utilize the services of the division in locating resident workers to fill job vacancies or, if resident workers cannot be located, obtain permission to employ nonresident workers, shall notify the Chief and report such vacancies...” Section 44432 states, “Upon receipt of notification pursuant to section 4431, the Chief shall first endeavor to fill the job vacancies reported by the employer by referral of resident workers registered with the division.”

So, there is the first step. Anyone interested in working needs to get down to the department and get registered. Don't worry about the wage, just get registered.

Section 4434 states, “The Chief shall not approve Nonresident Worker Certificates for the following job classifications: retail trade clerk, taxi cab driver, secretary, retail trade cashier, bookkeeper, accounting clerk, messenger, receptionist, surface tour boat operator, bus driver-including tour bus driver, and telephone switchboard operator.”

I know what the pat answer is: Locals won't work for \$3.05. True. True. But, who said anything about minimum wage being the wage? After all, by definition, the minimum wage is the lowest wage that can legally be paid in the CNMI. Who says the employers must pay the minimum?

And, keep in mind that for some unemployed persons, \$3.05 an hour is insufficient compared to the benefits they already receive from the government, such as food stamps and health insurance.

Let the market dictate wages. If companies are told that they must hire U.S. citizens or they just won't be able to have a cashier, a clerk or a bookkeeper, then they will have to offer a price the local market will bear. When Labor and Employment call you with a job opening and tell you it is \$3.05 an hour, tell them

to make a better offer. Labor and Employment will have to call every person on the list until they find someone who will work for a mutually agreed upon wage.

How will the stores cover this increased cost? They will take the extra \$10 or \$20 a day it costs to pay for an employee who is a U.S. citizen and spread it out at a penny a piece on the various products in their store. So we have to pay an extra two cents for a can of Spam. At least we will know that part of the cost is going to a U.S. citizen, one of our own most likely, and into our own economy.

When dollars we create locally are spent on alien labor and foreign-owned stores, a large percentage of those U.S. greenbacks are remitted to foreign ports. That is a drain on the local economy and contributes to America's growing negative gold flow. On the other hand, dollars spent on American labor, of whatever ethnic background, remains in our community and rotates among other local businesses that also employ US citizens and are the very foundation of our economy.

The Department of Labor has the responsibility to enforce this law, but probably lacks the manpower. They will need enough money in their budget to pay the wages of enforcement personnel who will need to visit every store in the CNMI. They will need to ask all employees to see their work permits, write down their job descriptions and the dates of permit expiration..

It is only proper to pay due respect to those companies that do hire locals above the current minimum wage. Many companies do go out of their way to hire locals, giving them training and promoting them into management positions. Kudos to those who do.

All we need to do is enforce the laws that are already on the books.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights

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Our World At War

Matson set to raise fuel surcharge cost

HAGATÑA, Guam (PDN/PIR)—The gas stations aren’t the only ones raising their prices because of escalating costs of oil. Matson Navigation Co. announced through a press release yesterday that the shipping company will raise the cost of its fuel surcharge on services to 8.8 percent.

The change will take effect on June 21 and will affect customers in Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and other mid-Pacific areas.

Tom Ahillen, Matson Navigation general manager on Guam, is off island and could not be reached for comment. Joe Rios, Matson sales and customer service manager, did not return telephone messages as of press time yesterday.

Matson burns approximately 1.9 million barrels of fuel annually, but for every dollar increase per barrel of bunker fuel, the company experiences about a \$1.9 million increase in annual operating costs, according to the press release.

“We cannot continue to

absorb these additional fuel-related operating costs,” the press release said. “We will continue to monitor fuel prices and adjust the surcharge accordingly.”

Mike Benito, assistant general manager of Pay-Less Supermarkets on Guam, said though Pay-Less mostly uses Horizon Lines to bring in its products, an increase in Matson’s fuel surcharge will likely mean Horizon will eventually increase its surcharge.

“I can’t remember a time when one carrier increased its charge and the other did not, but in of itself, this surcharge increase may not necessitate a raise in prices amongst the island’s retailers,” Benito said. “Fuel surcharges are adjusted up or down depending on the costs on a regular basis, but what could affect prices are the cumulative increases that have been happening. The prices went up and, unfortunately, we’ve been having fuel increases but have not seen it fall back. And eventually retailers will have to start passing on those costs to the consumer, though Pay-Less has not done that.

jet holding

wellsfargo
ww2
+red

Deadline extended for USDA's farm program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, or EQIP. The deadline for the last 2004 ranking period has been extended to June 30 to enable more farmers to participate.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes sustainable agricultural production and environmental quality. All farmers and ranchers on eligible agricultural land may participate. The program is open to both U.S. citizens and non-citizens alike.

EQIP is applied competitively. Contracts are awarded based on the number and kinds of conservation practices that a farmer elects to install according to a conservation plan that NRCS develops with the farmer. Financial assistance, in the form of cost-share and incentive payments, is given to encourage farmers to carry out sustainable practices. All practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. The local Soil and Water Conservation District approves the conservation plans. Applications are available at the USDA Service Center located in the DY Building on Beach Road, South Garapan. Farmers on Tinian and Rota may apply by contacting the Saipan office and arranging a meeting. NRCS provides free technical assistance to all land users whether they are involved with EQIP or not. Information on EQIP and other USDA programs is available online at www.pb.nrcs.usda.gov, or call the NRCS office at 236-0888.

The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NMC fall registration set

The Northern Marianas College has announced that registration for Fall 2004 classes is now ongoing and will conclude with late registration on August 14. Registration requirements are for students to pick-up their financial and library clearance slips and their English and Math placement scores at the appropriate offices.

The registration schedule is as follows:

Early Registration: 9am–4pm	
Beginning July 7	EN 070/071 and Placement in EN 202 and above
Beginning July 12	Placement in EN 101
Beginning July 19	Ongoing students with at least 30+ credits
Beginning July 26	All ongoing students who registered in SP04.
July 29-30	Add/Drop
July 30	All pre and early registrants must be cleared and pay or make arrangements to pay by this date.
Regular Registration: 9am–6pm	
Aug. 2-6	Open Registration
Aug. 9-11	Open Registration
Aug. 9	GEPDAP – First day of GEPDAP registration
Must apply at least one week before this date.	
Aug. 12-13	Add/Drop (Next Add/Drop during first week of instruction as usual).
Late Registration:	
Aug. 13	Late Registration: 9am–5pm
Aug. 14	Late Registration: 8am–noon

Students are to pick up a registration form from their advisor, be advised and registered in their respective departments, then obtain instructor's signature for specific courses as required. Next, students will proceed to OAR for verification and printout of student schedule, to Financial Aid Office for verification of financial aid, and then to Finance Office for payment or sign payment plan for Fall 2004 courses.

Important Dates:

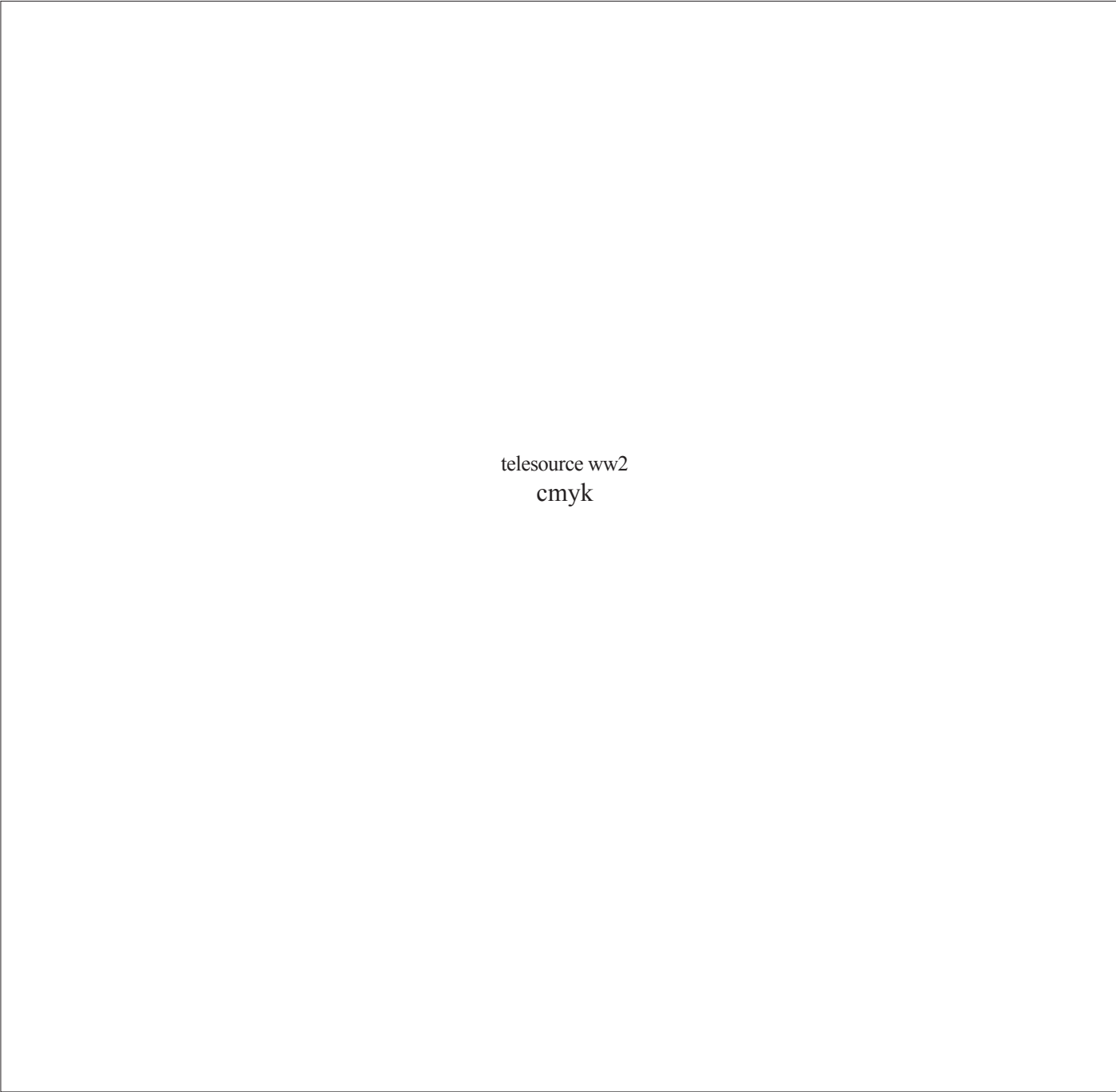
Pre and early registrants must pay or make payment arrangements by July 30.

First day of instruction for Fall 2004 is August 16.

For more information concerning registration, call Doris Aldan-Atalig at 234-5498 ext. 1538.

Financial Aid

NMC students receiving financial aid are also reminded to visit the Financial Aid office to ensure that their documents are current and up-to-date. Failure to do so may result in lost of financial aid. The cut-off date for applying for PELL Grant for the Fall 2004 semester is June 1.



New Saipancell store goes interactive



Kevin Seeker, Saipancell's marketing director.

JOHN RAVELO

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Saipancell has moved to an adjacent commercial space in Gualo Rai, inaugurating its new store with a new concept, where customers can actually use cellular phone units and access the Internet for free.

On display inside the store are activated cellular phone units, four computer sets and a television screen.

“This is a more interactive store where people can come in, pick up the phone, look at their features and make phone calls,” said Kevin Seeker, Saipancell’s marketing director. “You can actually touch and feel the equipment and see how it works.”

Seeker said the store’s concept was patterned after that of the Guamcell store at the Micronesia Mall on Guam. “It’s very successful. People like it,” he added.

The display of activated cellphones includes the LG brand’s LX 6000 camera phone, which can be used to take pictures that can be sent to other camera phones or via email.

Soon, Seeker said Saipancell would create personalized websites for customers so that the pictures taken from the camera phone would be automatically posted on the website.

The LX 6000 is just among some 15 cellphone models currently available at the store. Seeker said Saipancell is constantly looking for new phone models to keep up with the trend in telecommunications.

A “push-to-talk” cellphone—a radio and phone packaged as one 3-inch long cellphone unit—is also available at the store. Saipancell also carries Air Card that allows for quick Internet access among traveling computer users, especially businessmen.

Acting CNMI Gov. Diego T. Be-

navente on Friday joined Saipancell’s executives during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new telecom outlet. Saipancell president Mark Chamberlain and his wife Mickey, as well as store manager Pauline Johnson, led the inauguration rites.

The company distributed free T-shirts to the first 100 customers, gave away free beach balls to kids, and offered certain cellphone models at discounted prices Friday.

Seeker also urged everyone to sign up and join Saipancell’s Club FX, which entails no membership fee but the privilege to get price discounts at the store. Soon, he said price discounts could also be availed of at establishments affiliated with Saipancell.

Membership forms are available at the store, or one may access Saipancell’s website, www.saipancell.com, to enlist for the Club FX.

verizon
60th ww2
cmyk

triple j

United States



Dollars & Sense

Survey: Bush gets little credit on jobs

By RON FOURNIER
AP POLITICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy has gained about 1.2 million jobs in the last six months, but word hasn't trickled down to most Americans, according to voters in a survey by The Associated Press.

They're too focused on the war in Iraq and other news—and too busy trying to make ends meet—to notice the upbeat economic development. Few voters seem to be giving President Bush credit for the new jobs or other signs of recovery.

"I don't think he's created anything," said Lonnie Steele, 57, an

undecided voter from East Flat Rock, N.C. "I know a number of people who are educated people, and they are working two or three minimum-wage jobs just trying to put groceries on the table and keep their families alive."

An Associated Press survey of 788 registered voters conducted Monday through Wednesday shows that while they may be gaining confidence in the economy and Bush's performance, 57 percent said the nation has lost jobs in the last six months. The Labor Department has reported just the opposite—nearly 1.2 million jobs gained in half a year.

"The message hasn't got-

ten out," said Andy Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center. "It takes a while for national changes to get down to the people level."

The Nov. 2 election may hinge on whether the economy continues to improve and whether voters notice. The race is a dead heat, with Bush at 46 percent, Democrat John Kerry at 45 percent and independent candidate Ralph Nader at 6 percent, according to the AP poll conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Kerry's advisers say they're

not surprised that many voters don't know about the new jobs. "It's because the quality of jobs that have been created are inferior to the jobs that have been lost," said one, Tad Devine.

Retorted Bush spokeswoman Nicolle Devenish: "That's just not true. Two-thirds of the jobs that have been created are in sectors with higher-paying salaries than the national average." She pointed to Bureau of Labor Sta-

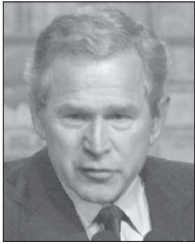
tistics figures showing the average salary for non-supervisory workers at \$15.64 an hour.

But the BLS also reports that a bulk of the new jobs—978,000—come from the private services sector, where the average hourly salary is \$15.24. Of the sector's professional and businesses services jobs created in May, nearly half are temporary help, the bureau said.

"The jobs are being created

for college students at McDonald's," said Barbara Mulkey, a Democratic voter from rural Floyd County, Ky. She said jobs had been lost, then didn't budge on her opinion of Bush when told she was wrong.

Michelle Blundy initially said U.S. jobs had been lost and called herself a "probable" Bush voter. Informed about the jobs gain, the Grand Rapids, Mich., woman said she would vote for Bush—and chalked up her original skepticism to Michigan's poor economy.



Bush

Nations gather for UN trade conference

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—Seeking to shift the international agenda from terrorism to poverty, delegations from 120 nations are converging on Brazil for talks aimed at giving developing countries a stronger role in the global economy.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which promotes trade to help poor countries, opens its 11th forum in its 40-year history Sunday amid a clamor from developing countries for trade liberalization to relieve Third World misery.

Although negotiations to spur free trade between developed countries and their poverty-stricken counterparts have advanced in recent years, critics say concrete movement has been blocked by the focus of the United States and its allies on crushing terrorism and on fighting the war in Iraq.

The weeklong meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city and its financial and industrial hub, will bring together leaders of Latin American countries, plus trade ministers and development officials from most other countries.

US dollar rallies to two-week high

The U.S. dollar rallied to two-week highs against many European currencies Friday, buoyed by recent comments on inflation from the Federal Reserve. Major international stock indexes closed lower as the U.S. markets closed in honor of former President Reagan.

With the Fed promising to tackle inflation, buyers regained confidence in the

dollar, sending it to its highest level in two weeks against the euro, the Swiss franc and British pound.

The euro fell 0.7 cents to \$1.2011 in late European trading, while the pound was down 1.12 cents at \$1.8181. The dollar was worth 1.2586 Swiss francs, up from 1.2477, and was valued at 1.3623 Canadian dollars, up from 1.3589.

The dollar also rose to 110.12 Japanese yen, up from 109.50. (AP)

China buys 20 Airbus jets, satellite

PARIS (AP)—France's determination to boost ties with Beijing paid off Friday, with visiting Chinese officials signing orders for 20 Airbus jets and a satellite, plus cooperation agreements covering trains, helicopters and nuclear plants.

The visit by Deputy Prime Minister Zeng Peiyan and Chinese industry leaders builds on a new warming of bilateral ties after President Hu Jintao traveled to France five months ago.

The string of new contracts is an early sign that France can expect handsome dividends from President Jacques Chirac's strong and sometimes controversial political backing for China.

At a ceremony with French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, the head of Shanghai-based China Eastern Airlines, Ye Yigan, signed orders for 20 A330-200 planes with a catalogue value of about US\$2 billion.

China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group Corp. placed an option for another 10 wide-bodied jets from the European aircraft maker, headquartered in the southern French city of Toulouse.

bank of saipan

United States



AP

Navy Capt. James A. Symonds, Commander of the USS Ronald Reagan, presents the flag to Nancy Reagan during interment ceremonies at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Friday, June 11, 2004.

Sun sets as Reagan laid to rest in Calif.

By CALVIN WOODWARD
and JEFF WILSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)—In a final, majestic hail to the chief, the nation bade a lingering goodbye to Ronald Reagan on Friday at a stately service in Washington under somber skies and at a hilltop burial ceremony in his beloved California beneath a setting sun.

In poignant eulogies at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the nation's 40th president was remembered by his surviving children as a father, grandfather and husband who was finally free from the grip of Alzheimer's disease.

"He is home now. He is free," said his son, Ron Reagan. "In his final letter to the American people, Dad wrote, 'I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life.' This evening, he has arrived."

After the service, a tearful Nancy Reagan kissed and stroked her husband's coffin while clutching an American flag—seemingly reluctant to leave his side. "I love you," she said quietly. The former first lady was surrounded by her crying children, who tried to console her just before the sun disappeared from the gold-tinged hills in the distance.

The flag-draped casket, accompanied by a stoic Mrs. Reagan, arrived at the library after a flight from Washington and a slow, 25-mile motorcade from the airport. Hundreds of well-wishers cheered the former first lady when she left the plane,

and crowds along the motorcade route waved flags, held their hands over their hearts and applauded as the hearse passed.

The burial and the funeral at Washington National Cathedral dropped the curtain on a week of American majesty. Dozens of world leaders, the four living ex-presidents and lifelong friends attended the state funeral.

"Ronald Reagan belongs to the ages now," President Bush said in his eulogy, "but we preferred it when he belonged to us."

The cathedral's great bells pealed as Reagan's casket arrived in the rain, the flag over it a burst of color in the gray pall, and pealed again with the motorcade's departure. Irish tenor Ronan Tynan filled the soaring space of the cathedral with "Ave Maria." The "Battle Hymn of the Republic" rang out.

And after a week of largely silent ritual, there were words—a stream of them praising the 40th president for rendering "bold strokes" on the American canvas, for staying humble, for loving his wife, for having a quip for any occasion.

"His politics had a freshness and optimism that won converts from every class and every nation—and ultimately from the very heart of the evil empire," said former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in taped remarks presented at the funeral. Thatcher, who has given up public speaking after a series of small strokes, sat next to Mikhail Gorbachev, who led that Soviet "empire" and eventually became Reagan's friend.

kambara

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McCain rejects Kerry’s VP overture

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Sen. John McCain has personally rejected John Kerry’s overtures to join the Democratic presidential ticket and forge a bipartisan alliance against President Bush, officials familiar with the conversations said Friday.

Kerry asked McCain in the last two weeks to consider becoming his running mate, but the Arizona senator said he’s not interested, according to a Democratic official who spoke on condition of anonymity because Kerry has insisted that his deliberations be kept private. A second official involved in the discussions confirmed the account and said the Arizona senator made it clear he won’t change his mind.

Both officials said Kerry stopped short of formally offering McCain the job, sparing himself an outright rejection that would make his eventual running mate look like a second choice.

Alcohol abuse up, but alcoholism down

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alcohol abuse is up in America - sharply for most groups - a government study said Friday. At the same time alcoholism was down.

Some 4.65 percent of the adult population reported alcohol abuse in 2001-2002, up from 3.03 percent a decade earlier, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reported.

During the same period, the share of the population who were judged to be alcoholics slipped from 4.38 percent to 3.81 percent of people aged 18 and over, the institute said.

“What is surprising, then, is that the prevalence of alcohol abuse increased in the face of slightly declining rates of heavy drinking,” said the research team led by Bridget F. Grant of the institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

Alcohol abuse, which increased, is defined as drinking-related failure to fulfill major obligations at work, school or home, interpersonal social or legal problems and drinking in hazardous situations. Alcoholism, which declined, is characterized by compulsive drinking, preoccupation with drinking and tolerance to alcohol.

Combined, alcohol abuse and alcoholism affected 17.6 million Americans in 2001-2002, up from 13.8 million in 1991-1992.

Nichols spared death as jury deadlocks

McALESTER, Okla. (AP)—Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols was again spared the death penalty Friday when jurors who convicted him of 161 murder counts deadlocked over his sentence, denying state prosecutors the execution that was the main reason for bringing the case.

Just as a federal jury deadlocked six years earlier, state jurors could not agree on Nichols’ punishment for helping executed bomber Timothy McVeigh blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people.

Nichols is set to be sentenced Aug. 9 by Judge Steven Taylor, who is required by law to sentence Nichols to life in prison.

State jurors announced they could not reach a verdict after deliberating for about 19 1/2 hours over three days.

“No one should feel that they have let anybody down,” Taylor said. “This case was not about winning or losing. This case is about justice.”

The deadlock was a blow to state prosecutors and victims’ relatives.

“It’s sad that he still gets to stay alive, and everybody else didn’t have a choice on whether they would leave this world,” said Debbie Miller, who was injured in the explosion.

State prosecutors brought the case, which has cost \$3.9 million in defense attorneys’ fees alone, after Nichols was sentenced to life in prison without parole following federal convictions for the deaths of eight federal agents in the bombing.

The state convictions were for the 160 other victims of the bombing, and one fetus whose mother died in the blast.

Oklahoma County District Attorney Wes Lane, who made the decision to pursue the state case against Nichols, denied that the prosecution was conducted solely for the purpose of getting a death penalty verdict. He said it was important that Nichols be convicted of killing all the bombing victims, and that the state counts serve as an insurance policy if the federal counts are overturned.

“This case has always been about 161 men, women and children and an unborn baby having the same rights to their day in court as eight federal law enforcement officers,” he said. “They’ve now had their day in court.”

Defense attorney Brian Hermanson said now was the time to think of those harmed by the bombing.

“At this time we should remember the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, their losses,” Hermanson said. He said Nichols prayed that “all people can recover from the hate and fear” created by the bombing.

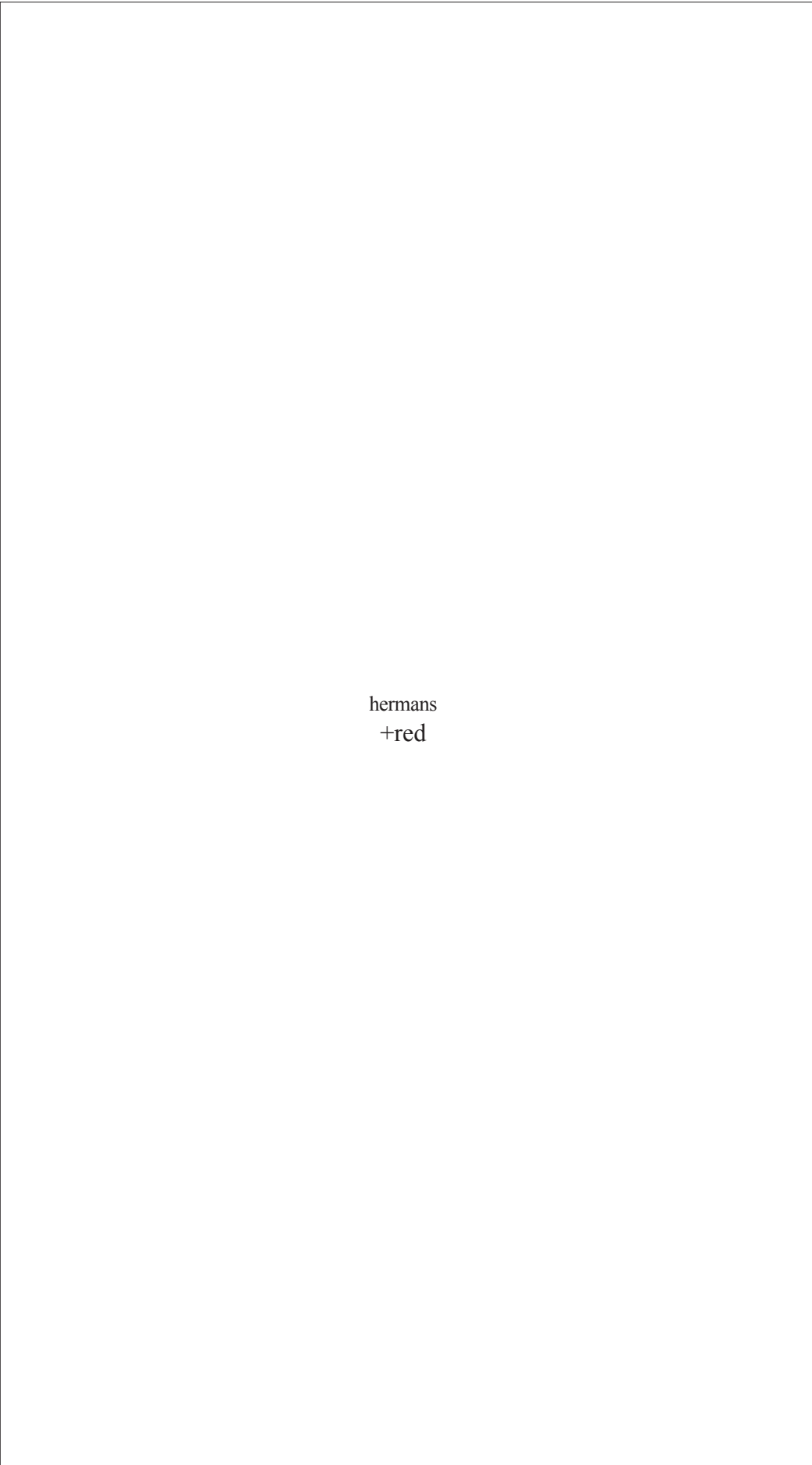
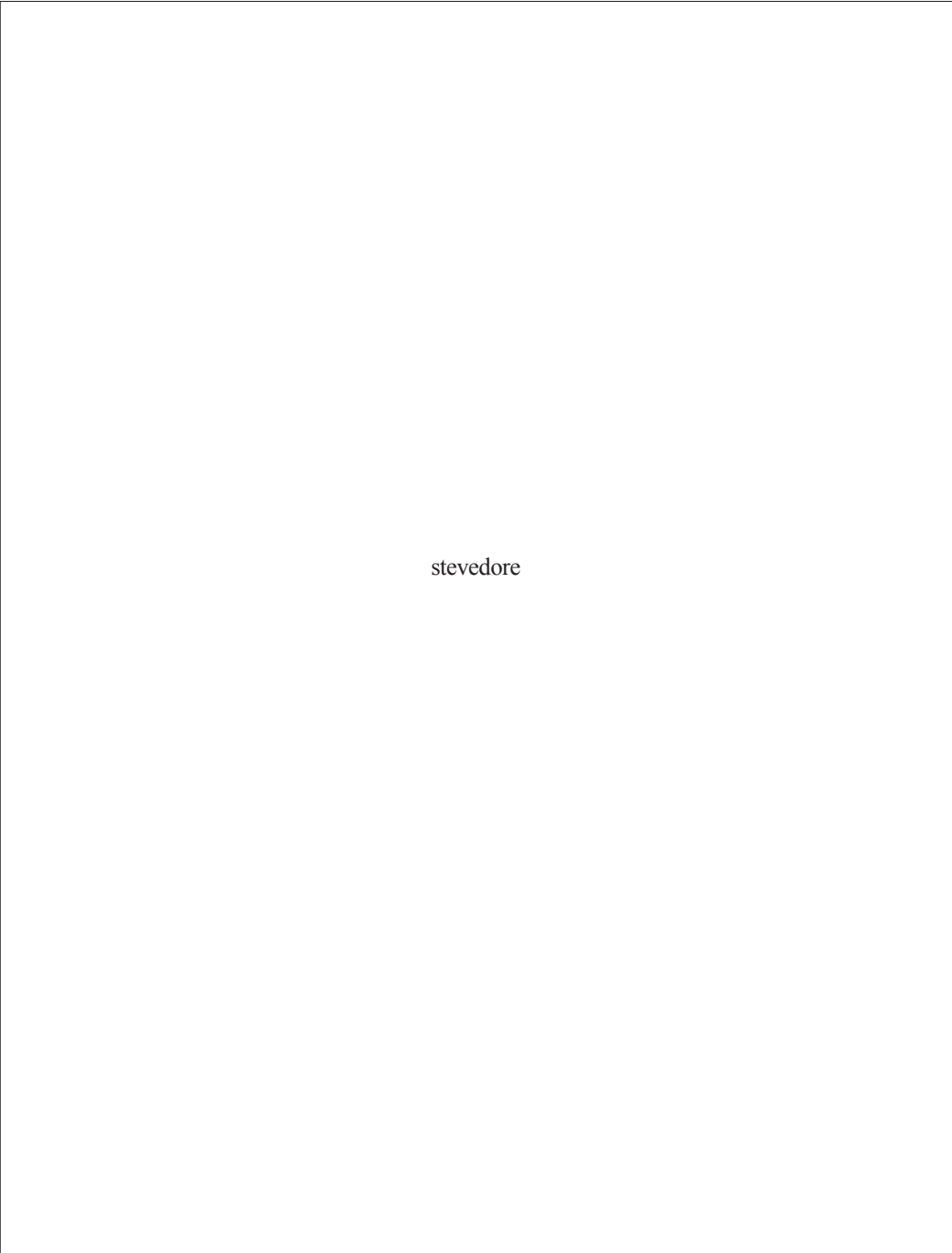
The jury, which convicted Nichols on May 26, began deliberating in the trial’s sentencing phase Wednesday, after a week of emotional testimony.

The April 19, 1995, bombing killed 168 people and wounded 500. McVeigh, Nichols’ former Army buddy and the mastermind of the bombing, was convicted of federal charges and executed in 2001 for what was the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil at the time.

Prosecutors said the blast was a twisted attempt to avenge the deaths of about 80 people who died in the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, exactly two years earlier.

They said Nichols helped build the two-ton bomb—made from farm fertilizer and fuel oil—that was packed into a Ryder truck and detonated outside the federal building.

“Think about the number of dreams, the number of plans and the number of loved ones that Terry Nichols destroyed on April 19, 1995,” prosecutor Suzanne Lister said during closing arguments in the sentencing phase. “Think of them as individual human beings. One-hundred-sixty-one. Nineteen children. Some of their bodies are torn beyond recognition. Some are decapitated.”



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MOVIE REVIEW

Judge rules for Eminem in magazine flap

NEW YORK (AP)—Rap magazine The Source has been ordered to pay Eminem's legal fees for violating a federal court order not to publish full versions of the rapper's racially charged lyrics.

The Source published the lyrics of an Eminem song on its Web site in January, violating a temporary restraining order issued by U.S. District Judge Gerard Lynch in December.

In a pair of rulings made public Wednesday in the copyright dispute between the magazine and the rapper, Lynch ordered The Source to pay legal fees to Shady Records Inc., Eminem's label.

The judge compared Eminem to Benny Goodman and Elvis Presley in finding success in musical genres created by black artists. But he said the First Amendment protects the rapper's "musical commentaries on life."

"It is for fans of hip-hop, and not for this court, to decide what if anything this episode means for their opinions of Mathers as a man and as an artist," the judge wrote.

In December, the judge allowed the magazine to publish limited excerpts from the lyrics and to distribute CDs containing small clips of the songs.

The dispute concerns two recordings made by Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Mathers, as a

teenager. They include lyrics such as "black girls are dumb, and white girls are good chicks."

The Source's co-owners, David Mays and Raymond Scott, have publicized the records, accusing Eminem of racism. The magazine also published a poster of Scott holding Eminem's severed head. Eminem and Mays are white; Scott is black.

Eminem, now 31, has said the recording was "foolishness" that he made as a teenager out of anger and frustration after breaking up with a black girlfriend.

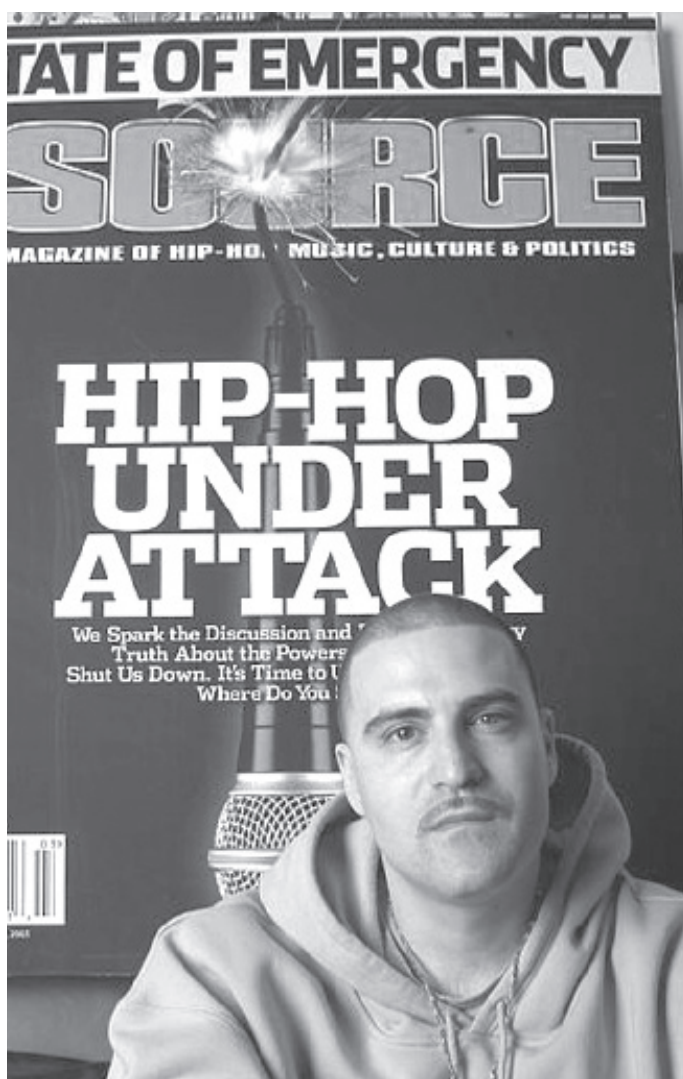
In a companion ruling, the judge dismissed a countersuit filed by The Source against Shady Records and Eminem himself, in which the magazine claimed it held the rights to the songs.

But he denied a request by Shady Records to fine the magazine thousands of dollars because the magazine quickly removed the lyrics in January when lawyers complained.

Michael S. Elkin, a lawyer for The Source, defended the publication of the lyrics.

"The Source had every right to publish the material it did release to inform the public about who Eminem is," he told The New York Times.

Shady Records declined comment.



David Mays, co-founder of The Source magazine, poses in his New York office Jan. 21, 2004.

Whitney Houston receives award in Germany

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Whitney Houston received a lifetime achievement award at the first-ever Women's World Awards. Organizers said the prize was designed "for women whose unique achievements have contributed to a better, more peaceful and humane society."

Dionne Warwick also received a lifetime achievement award at Wednesday's ceremony at the Congress Center.

A 300-member jury chose winners in 12 categories, according to the Women's World Awards Web site.

With her Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Houston has supported the rights of children and humanitarian projects, though it has presently stopped taking grant applications, the foundation's Web site said.

The 40-year-old singer, who entered a drug rehabilitation center in March, was quoted as saying: "My message for women is to love and respect themselves, for if they love themselves then they can love others as well. I have learned to do this. Through love for myself and praying to our Lord I have been able to overcome my personal problem."

Other honorees included

Vivienne Westwood, Katarina Witt, Naomi Campbell, Bianca Jagger and Diane Kruger.

The Women's World Awards were created by Austrian communication's company World Connection to complement its annual World Awards, which has awarded prizes to men including Morgan Freeman, Steven Spielberg and Luciano Pavarotti since 2000.

Songwriters hall inducts Don McLean

NEW YORK (AP)—The creators of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," "Private Eyes," "Let's Stay Together" and "American Pie" are all getting their due.

The Songwriters Hall of Fame inducts the Motown team of Barrett Strong and Norman Whitfield; the blue-eyed soul duo Daryl Hall and John Oates; soulman turned preacher Al Green and folkie Don McLean on Thursday. The hall is also inducting Charles Fox, writer of Roberta Flack's hit "Killing Me Softly With His Song."

Stevie Wonder, Neil Sedaka and Rob Thomas of matchbox twenty also are getting special awards at the 35th annual ceremony.

"It's great to have songwriters who are in the tradition of the best songwriters that America ever had ask you to join them," McLean told The Associated Press Thursday.

"Vincent (Starry Starry Night)," "Dreidel" and "Crying" were also hits for McLean. But he'll forever be known for

"American Pie," the sprawling ode to a more innocent era keyed to "the day that music died," when Buddy Holly died in a plane crash.

"It really was a phenomenon," he said. "I think it changed the world in a tiny way. I'm tremendously proud of it."



Singer Don McLean arrives at the induction ceremony for the 35th annual National Academy of Popular Music/Songwriters Hall of Fame in New York, Thursday, June 10, 2004.

Parent must be accountable for stealing child's identity

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I caught one of my parents using my credit card without my authorization. I checked my credit report and found that four other accounts had been opened in my name without my permission. I am furious.

My first impulse was to seek legal action, but I held back. I come from a Chinese/Filipino family. It is considered a matter of family honor not to disgrace or embarrass one another.

I am torn between reporting it and just taking care of it. But if I take care of it, I am enabling my parent to think that I can just clean up the problem and be OK with it.

I sent a letter asking that the balances be paid off. It was ignored. My other relatives aren't willing to get involved. I love my parent very much, but this isn't right. It has already ruined my chances of having a car or home of my own. What should I do?

DISCREDITED IN ROCKVILLE, MD.

DEAR DISCREDITED: Your parent is guilty of credit card fraud and should be confronted. If you already have, and got nowhere, then treat this like you would any other crime and report the perpetrator to the police. There are legal remedies you can take.

In case you feel you are alone with this problem, I'm sad to say you have a lot of company. It is important that you waste no time in getting this mess straightened out. Please do not for one moment feel guilty about breaching "family honor." That happened when your parent began to fraudulently use your identity.

DEAR ABBY: My youngest daughter, "Patty," recently married. She and her husband have just started college, so I understand that, between being a newlywed and a college freshman, she is very busy. We rarely see them now. The college is only 50 miles away, and you would think they could call occasionally and come home once a month on a weekend. I offered to let Patty call collect or allow me to provide a calling card for her.

She was active in sports in high school and we went to every game. She was also in a drama group and we never missed a performance. So why is Patty now avoiding us? What can we do to get the closeness back that meant so much to her father and me?

LONESOME FOR MY DAUGHTER

DEAR LONESOME: You appear to be suffering from a combination of separation anxiety and empty nest syndrome. From your description, your daughter's calendar is, indeed, full—between being a full-time student and a new wife, with all of the responsibilities that go with it. She might be inclined to stay in touch more if you backed off and stopped pressuring her.

You and your husband have done your job well. Your daughter has been "launched." Now it's time for the both of you to concentrate on your own interests, your own lives and your own marriage. If you do, you'll feel your daughter's absence less and be much happier and more fulfilled.

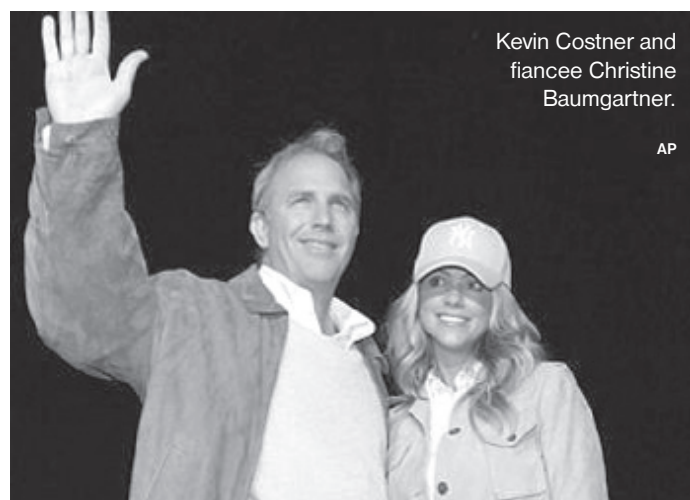
DEAR ABBY: I am an adult woman who is only attracted to men of other races. I try to date men of my own race, but I can never find enough chemistry with them to have a long-term relationship. Is something psychologically wrong with me?

LONELY IN ATLANTA

DEAR LONELY: Not from my perspective. "Chemistry" is a complicated thing, and rarely is it rational. However, if this is causing you serious problems, some sessions with a therapist might help you get to the root of it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Kevin Costner and fiancée Christine Baumgartner.

AP

'Field of Dreams' out on 2-disc DVD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Costner emerged from rows of cornstalks as part of the celebration for the DVD release of the two-disc 15th-anniversary edition of his baseball fantasy, "Field of Dreams."

The Universal Studios Home Video event at West Hollywood Park Wednesday reunited cast and filmmakers. Costner starred in the 1989 movie, adapted from W.P. Kinsella's novel,

"Shoeless Joe," and directed by Phil Alden Robinson.

The film's famous baseball field was recreated for the event.

Costner played a farmer prodded by a mysterious voice to build a ballpark in his cornfield, which becomes a shrine of redemption and rebirth for him and his father, a reclusive writer (James Earl Jones), an aging doctor (Burt Lancaster) and disgraced slugger Shoeless Joe Jackson (Ray Liotta).

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004 35



28 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2004

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2004 27



Couples leads Buick Classic by one stroke

By JOHN NICHOLSON
AP SPORTS WRITER



HARRISON, N.Y. (AP)—Dr. Snowball might be making house calls next week at Shinnecock Hills if Fred Couples keeps playing like this. After night and morning acupuncture sessions with Halina Snowball in Greenwich, Conn., the 44-year-old Couples shot a bogey-free 6-under 65 on Friday to take the second-round lead in the Buick Classic.

"As soon as I left her office yesterday, I didn't have any pain in my back," Couples said. "I don't get it, but I'm going to keep trying it. To me, it's unbelievable what they can do."

Coming off a second-place finish last week in the Memorial, Couples birdied the final two holes on the Westchester Country Club course to take a one-stroke lead over Vijay Singh, Fredrik Jacobson and young playing partner Luke Donald.

"I've kept the ball in play, which is the key here," said Couples, who played with acupuncture pins in his ears.

Couples' wife, Thais, tried to talk him into withdrawing Wednesday night to rest his back for the U.S. Open next week at Shinnecock Hills.

"I snuck out of there Thursday when she was still sleeping," Couples said. "She's downtown with the kids now. She'll come home and I'll tell her I'm leading the tournament and she's going to have a heart attack."

Couples took advantage of Jacobson's double-bogey 7 on the par-5 ninth—his last hole—to top the leaderboard at 10 under.

Jacobson's tee shot struck a tree and bounced away from the tree line, but he failed to take advantage of the break when his 8-iron third shot went into the thick rough to the right of the green. After lobbing his fourth shot into an awkward position in the left fringe, he chipped 5 feet past the hole and missed the bogey putt.

"It could have been a 9," the Swede said.

He finished with a 69, Donald had a 66 and Singh followed his opening 63 with a 70.

"I had a lot of half-shots today," said Singh, the 1993 and 1995 winner. "If you're between clubs, it's very hard to get close."

Jacobson, a stroke behind Singh after a first-round 64, holed out from 112 yards for eagle on the par-4 second hole to tie Singh for the lead at 9 under. The Swede reached 10 under with an 8-foot birdie putt on the par-5 fifth, and took a

two-stroke lead with a 15-footer on the par-3 sixth.

"I'm still realize that I'm in position, where if I play well tomorrow, I can win the tournament," he said.

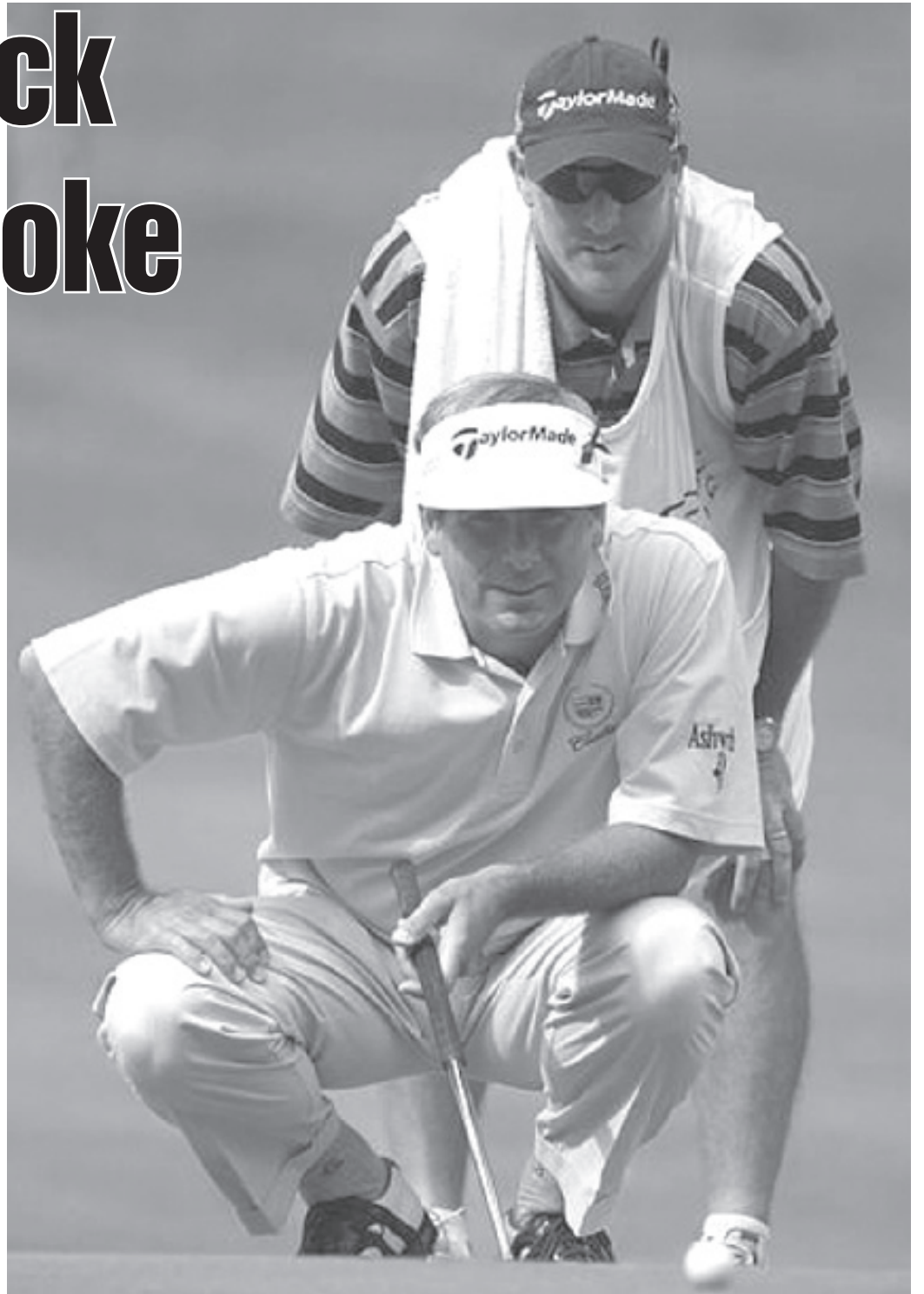
Tom Byrum eagled the 18th for a 64—the best round of the day—to finish at 7 under, and Padraig Harrington shot his second straight 68 to join Billy Mayfair, Scott Hend, Tjaart Van der Walt and Cameron Beckman at 6 under. Van der Walt, the last player to get into the field, had a 65, and Mayfair, Hend and Beckman shot 68s.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson and two-time Buick Classic winner Ernie Els were 5 under. Mickelson had a 68, and Els—the Memorial winner—shot a 69.

"I think 5 under is within striking distance," Mickelson said.

Harrington put himself in contention for his first PGA Tour victory.

"I really struggled with my swing, to be honest, but I worked the ball around the golf course well," the Irish star said. "If the U.S. Open wasn't next week, I would just work with what I've got - just put up with it and see what happens and hope it would go away. But with the U.S. Open next week, I'm going to try and figure it out."



Fred Couples checks his shot with caddy Joe Lacava on the fifth hole during the Buick Classic golf tournament in Harrison, N.Y., Friday, June 11, 2004.



Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson answers a question during a news conference at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich., Friday, June 11, 2004.

Lakers seem to be in denial about Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers handed out compliments to the Detroit Pistons on Friday about as well as they've gotten the ball to Shaquille O'Neal—grudgingly, or not at all.

"It's all about us," O'Neal said. "They're not doing anything that's putting us out of character. We're putting our own selves out of character."

The Lakers trail Detroit 2-1 in the best-of-seven series, and they're lucky not to be down 3-0 in an NBA Finals that has defied expectations. Struggling to score against the league's best defensive team, adept only at shrugging off their losses, the Lakers almost appear to be in denial.

O'Neal is not getting his hands on the ball nearly enough, the blame for which is twofold: His teammates haven't fed him on a regular basis, and he hasn't been hitting the offensive boards hard enough to take matters into his own hands.

"We're not worried about getting him more touches," said Bryant, putting himself directly at philosophical odds with his fellow superstar.

O'Neal attempted only 14 shots in Game 3, while Devean George, Derek Fisher and Kareem Rush each took at least eight. Bryant attempted 13 shots after taking 27 in each of the first two games. Also, O'Neal did not go to the free throw line until the fourth quarter - as clear a sign as any that all is not right in Lakerland.

"It gets very frustrating sometimes," O'Neal said. "I've always said that if a team is going to play me single coverage, we've got to make them pay. And we haven't made this team pay yet."

Los Angeles attempted 27 3-pointers in Thursday night's 88-68 loss, making only six, while being held to the lowest postseason point total in a franchise history, encompassing 627 games.

O'Neal isn't the only one baffled by the Lakers' reluctance to turn to a player with a career finals average of nearly 34 points—second in NBA history behind Rick Barry's 36.3.

"They're just not throwing him the ball," said Pistons center Elden Campbell, who has shared the defensive assignment on O'Neal with Ben Wallace. "We're denying

him, but not that much."

O'Neal's point totals have declined from 34 to 29 to 14, eroding as rapidly as the Lakers' chances to turn the momentum back in their favor. A loss Sunday night would leave them trailing 3-1, a deficit no NBA team has ever overcome in the finals.

"I think we're a little unhappy as a basketball team," coach Phil Jackson said. "I talked about the Pistons playing their type of game, and we've allowed this to happen for three games consistently without enforcing our will upon the games."

"We have to start exerting our will, and to do that requires a certain sense of determination."

It also requires clear heads, and the Lakers have been dealing with more than their usual share of distractions.

Aside from knee injuries to Karl Malone and Fisher and the ever-present uneasiness between their oft-feuding superstars, the Lakers have had to cope with the unrestrained zeal of Pistons fans and the lengths to which they've gone to wreak havoc.

The Lakers had to call the police in the middle of the night to put a stop to Pistons fans blaring their car horns while

driving in circles around the team hotel. Also, a heckler got into a heated exchange with Malone before Game 3, filing a complaint with police alleging the Mailman went postal and poked him in the face.

"I'm not going to let a guy spit on me, I'm not going to take that," Malone said. "I've never had that happen before."

Then there's the more mundane distraction of being unable to defend Chauncey Billups on pick-and-roll plays. The Pistons' point guard has repeatedly stepped back and hit 3-pointers when his defender stays beneath the picker, or has used his quickness to dart toward the basket when his defender has gone above the screen.

Billups is averaging 22.7 points to go along with backcourt mate Richard Hamilton's 23.0.

The Pistons also have the edge in free throw attempts, taking 91 to the Lakers' 56 - a discrepancy that Jackson was eager to complain about Friday.

"Last night, in all four quarters, we were in foul jeopardy within the first three minutes," Jackson said. "As a consequence, our defense has to be soft."

Detroit Tigers beat Florida Marlins, 8-4

 **DETROIT** (AP)—Ivan Rodriguez homered in his first game against his former team, helping the Detroit Tigers beat the Florida Marlins 8-4 Friday night.

Dmitri Young hit a three-run shot for his first homer of the year, and Carlos Guillen added a two-run drive for the Tigers.

Rodriguez, the star catcher who helped Florida to a surprising World Series title last October, went 2-for-4 with a single.

“This was a special night,” Rodriguez said. “I had a lot of fun.”

The 10-time All-Star signed a \$40 million, four-year contract with Detroit in the offseason.

Red Sox 2, Dodgers 1

In Boston, David Ortiz singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning after homering in the seventh for Boston in the Dodgers’ first game ever at Fenway Park.

After left fielder Manny Ramirez’s error gave the Dodgers an unearned run in the top of the ninth, Johnny Damon started the bottom of the inning by walking against Tom Martin (0-1).

Padres 10, Yankees 2

In New York, Adam Eaton pitched seven sharp innings, Phil Nevin hit a three-run homer and Phil Nevin capitalized on Mike Mussina’s early departure to beat the New York Yankees.

Mussina left after just three innings because of tightness in his right groin. He came out as a precaution, the Yankees said. His injury occurred just two days after teammate Kevin Brown left his start against Colorado with a strained back.

Diamondbacks 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Danny Bautista hit a go-ahead single in the ninth inning and Arizona rallied for a victory over Toronto.

With the Diamondbacks down 2-0 in the ninth, Chad Tracy doubled off rookie reliever Jason Frasor (2-2) before Alex Cintron hit an RBI double.

Phillies 11, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Ricky Ledee’s three-run homer, his second of the night, capped a five-run ninth inning and helped Philadelphia end Minnesota’s four-game winning streak.

Lew Ford’s two-run homer in the seventh for the Twins tied it at 6, but Jim Thome gave the Phillies the lead back with a two-run double in the ninth against J.C. Romero.

Devil Rays 8, Rockies 7, 10 innings

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Rey Sanchez hit an inside-the-park homer in the 10th inning as Tampa Bay edged Colorado.

Sanchez hit a liner to right field off Shawn Chacon (0-3) that went all the way to the wall after Jeromy Burnitz missed a shoestring catch attempt. Center fielder Choo Freeman backed up the play and retrieved the ball, but Sanchez was already headed home with the winning run.

Braves 6, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Jaret Wright pitched two-hit ball for seven scoreless innings and Eli Marrero hit a three-run double to lead Atlanta over the Chicago White Sox.

The White Sox rallied for four runs against John Smoltz in the ninth on Carlos Lee’s RBI double and Jose Valentin’s three-run homer. But Smoltz struck out pinch-hitter Timo Perez with a runner on to end it.

Indians 6, Reds 5, 11 innings

In Cleveland, Pinch-hitter Lou Merloni drew a bases-loaded walk in the 11th inning.

Merloni’s stroll to first after facing Phil Norton (0-1) came on a night 27,308 were hoping to see Ken Griffey Jr. make a home run trot or two.

Cardinals 12, Rangers 7

In Arlington, Texas, Albert Pujols returned from a hamstring injury and drove in a run, and John Mabry homered and had five RBIs to lead St. Louis past Texas.

Reggie Sanders homered had three hits for the Cardinals, who have a major league-best 22-11 record on the road.

Royals 7, Mets 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Matt Stairs doubled and tripled to help Darrell May avoid becoming the majors’ first nine-game loser as Kansas City edged the New York Mets.

In their first appearance in Kauffman Stadium, the Mets lost their fourth successive game and their sixth in seven.

Angels 3, Cubs 2

In Anaheim, California, John Lackey outpitched Greg Maddux as Anaheim beat Chicago in their first interleague matchup.

Lackey (4-7) held the Cubs to two runs in seven innings to win for the first time in five decisions. With closer Troy Percival on the disabled list, Francisco Rodriguez pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save and second in two nights.

Mariners 1, Expos 0

In Seattle, Pat Borders his a bases-loaded single off Livan Hernandez with two outs in the ninth inning to give Seattle a win over Montreal to end a 29-inning scoreless drought on .

Seattle hadn’t scored since Scott Spiezio homered in the fifth inning of a 5-0 win over Houston on Monday night. The Astros shut out the Mariners 3-0 Tuesday night and 1-0 Wednesday night.

Athletics 6, Pirates 1

In Oakland, California, Tim Hudson allowed one run in seven innings to lead Oakland past Pittsburgh for its season-high sixth straight win.

Damian Miller and Marco Scutaro each drove in two runs for the Athletics, who sent the Pirates to their sixth consecutive defeat.

Brewers 9, Astros 3

In Milwaukee, Scott Podsednik hit a three-run homer and an RBI double to back a solid outing by Doug Davis in the Milwaukee’s victory over the Houston Astros.

Geoff Jenkins and Junior Spivey also homered for the Brewers, who have beaten Tim Lincecum (3-5) three times this season.

Jeff Kent extended his career-best hitting streak to 25 games—a franchise record and tied for the longest in the majors this season—with a leadoff double in the second inning. He broke the mark he shared with Tony Eusebio, who hit in 24 straight in 2000.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	G
New York	38	21	.644	-
Boston	36	24	.600	2 1/2
Baltimore	26	29	.473	10
Toronto	27	34	.443	12
Tampa Bay	24	34	.414	13 1/2

Central Division				
Minnesota	33	27	.550	-
Chicago	31	26	.544	1/2
Detroit	28	32	.467	5
Cleveland	27	31	.466	5
Kansas City	22	36	.379	10

West Division				
Oakland	35	24	.593	-
Anaheim	35	25	.583	1/2
Texas	33	25	.569	1 1/2
Seattle	23	36	.390	12

Yesterday's Games				
Arizona 3, Toronto 2				
Detroit 8, Florida 4				
Boston 2, Los Angeles 1				
San Diego 10, N.Y. Yankees 2				
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 5, 11 innings				
Tampa Bay 8, Colorado 7, 10 innings				
San Francisco at Baltimore, ppd., Rain				
St. Louis 12, Texas 7				
Atlanta 6, Chicago White Sox 4				
Philadelphia 11, Minnesota 6				
Kansas City 7, N.Y. Mets 5				
Seattle 1, Montreal 0				
Anaheim 3, Chicago Cubs 2				
Oakland 6, Pittsburgh 1				

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
Florida	34	27	.557	-
Philadelphia	31	27	.534	1 1/2
Atlanta	30	30	.500	3 1/2
New York	28	32	.467	5 1/2
Montreal	20	39	.339	13

Central Division				
St. Louis	35	26	.574	-
Cincinnati	34	26	.567	1/2
Houston	32	27	.542	2
Chicago	31	29	.517	3 1/2
Milwaukee	30	28	.517	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	24	33	.421	9

West Division				
San Diego	33	27	.550	-
Los Angeles	31	27	.534	1
San Francisco	30	30	.500	3
Arizona	25	36	.410	8 1/2
Colorado	21	39	.350	12

Yesterday's Games				
Arizona 3, Toronto 2				
Detroit 8, Florida 4				
Boston 2, Los Angeles 1				
San Diego 10, N.Y. Yankees 2				
Cleveland 6, Cincinnati 5, 11 innings				
Tampa Bay 8, Colorado 7, 10 innings				
San Francisco at Baltimore, ppd., Rain				
Milwaukee 9, Houston 3				
St. Louis 12, Texas 7				
Atlanta 6, Chicago White Sox 4				
Philadelphia 11, Minnesota 6				
Kansas City 7, N.Y. Mets 5				
Seattle 1, Montreal 0				
Anaheim 3, Chicago Cubs 2				
Oakland 6, Pittsburgh 1				

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB
MLB-Suspended St. Louis Cardinals OF Roger Cedeno for four games and fined him an undisclosed amount for his actions during a game against the Cubs on June 8. Suspended Colorado Rockies RHP Steve Reed for three games and fined him an undisclosed amount for making contact with the umpire during a game on June 6. ANAHEIM ANGELS-Placed RHP Aaron Sele on the 15-day DL. Recalled INF-OF Robb Quinlan from Salt Lake of the PCL. BOSTON RED SOX-Activated RHP Scott Williamson from the 15-day DL. Optioned C-1B Andy Dominique to Pawtucket of the IL. CHICAGO WHITE SOX-Agreed to terms with

LHP Tyler Lumsden, LHP Giovanny Gonzalez, LHP Ray Liotta, RHP Grant Hansen, RHP Lucas Harrell, OF Brandon Allen, LHP Tim Murphy, OF Daron Roberts, RHP John Egbert, 3B Michael Swain, RHP Carlos Torres, OF Fernando Alvarez, 3B Caleb Cooper, SS-2B Derek McNeil, C-OF Joshua Hansen, RHP Matthew Zaleski, 3B-OF Mario Suarez, CF Evan Tartaglia, LHP Justin Roelle, C Peter Vukovich, Jr. and 2B-SS Garrett Guest on minor-league contracts.

CLEVELAND INDIANS-Purchased the contract of C Sandy Martinez from Buffalo of the IL. Designated RHP Lou Pote for assignment. MINNESOTA TWINS-Signed SS Trevor Plouffe, LHP John Williams, RHP Eduardo Morlan, SS Matt Tolbert and CF Deacon Burns. OAKLAND ATHLETICS-Signed RHP Steve Sharpe, OF Nick Blasi, LHP Ryan Ford, C Tyler Best, RHP Clay Tichota, RHP Rob Semmerano, RHP Shawn Martinez, LHP Dallas Braden, OF Andre Piper-Jordan and RHP Scott Fairbanks.

CHICAGO CUBS-Activated OF Tom Goodwin from 15-day DL. Optioned OF David Kelton to Iowa of the PCL. CINCINNATI REDS-Signed SS Paul Janish, RHP Terrell Young, OF Cody Strait, OF Travis Kaats, LHP Charles O'Neal, LHP Drew Jenson, SS Blake Honey, 3B Matt Levering, OF Pedro Hawkins, RHP Adam Gillihan, OF Jamie Langham, LHP Terrance Sparks, RHP Robbie Wachman, SS Drew Phillips and 3B Bradley Key to minor-league contracts. MONTREAL EXPOS-Placed RHP Tomo Ohka on the 15-day DL. Called up LHP Joe Morgan from Edmonton of the PCL. Agreed to terms with SS Ian Desmond, OF Marvin Lowrance, 3B Leonard Davis, SS Brandon Conway, RHP David Trahan, C Lyndsey Simmons, LHP Thomas Wilson, RHP Matthew Perks, RHP Benjamin Cox, RHP Aaron Jackson, RHP Steven Cook on minor-league contracts. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES-Signed 2B Greg Isaacson, RHP Andrew Baldwin, OF Sean Gamble, LHP Jason Martinez, LHP Zachary Cline, LHP Kyle Allen, OF Ryan Frith, RHP Nathan Johnson, OF Anthony Buffone, RHP Kevin Rose, RHP Aaron Wilson, 3B Joseph DiNenno, LHP Kevin Shepard, 3B Nicholas Shimer, C Derek Brant, C Louis Marson, OF Andrew MacFarlane, 1B Carl Galloway, RHP Nicholas Evangelista, RHP Clary Carlsen and RHP Michael Mihalik to minor-league contracts. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS-Recalled RHP Jason Simontacchi from Memphis of the PCL. Optioned RHP Dan Haren to Memphis. SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS-Placed RHP Brett Tomko on the 15-day DL, retroactive to June 8. Recalled LHP Noah Lowry from Fresno of the PCL.

NBA
DENVER NUGGETS-Declined to exercise their contract option on F Ryan Bowen, making him a free agent.

NFL
BUFFALO BILLS-Signed C Dan Koons. DENVER BRONCOS-Signed WR Triandos Luke. DETROIT LIONS-Released TE Mikhael Ricks. HOUSTON TEXANS-Waived WR Ron Dugans.

College
ALLEGANY-Announced the retirement of Bob Kirk, men's basketball coach. HOFSTRA-Named Cherie Hogg women's assistant basketball coach. INDIANA-Named Kerry Rupp men's assistant basketball coach. IONA-Named Nick Macarchuk III, Sam Worthen and Vin Parise men's basketball assistant coaches. JUNIATA-Announced the resignation of Kevin Burke, football coach. MINNESOTA-MOORHEAD-Named Rollie Bullock women's soccer coach. MONTANA-Named Andy Hill men's assistant basketball coach. URSINUS-Announced the resignation of Bill Stiles, assistant director of athletics, to become director of athletics at Chestnut Hill. ST. FRANCIS, IND.-Announced the resig-

nation of Lindsay Schott, women's softball coach. STERLING-Named Matt Elliott baseball coach. WEST CHESTER-Named Tara Koleski women's soccer coach. WESTERN CAROLINA-Named Anquell McCollum men's assistant basketball coach. WOFFORD-Named Matt Allen men's assistant basketball coach.

BUICK CLASSIC SCORES

Second Round		
Fred Couples	67-65	132
Vijay Singh	63-70	133
Fredrik Jacobson	64-69	133
Luke Donald	67-66	133
Tom Byrum	71-64	135
Padraig Harrington	68-68	136
Billy Mayfair	68-68	136
Scott Hend	68-68	136
Tjaart Van der Walt	71-65	136
Cameron Beckman	68-68	136
Robert Damron	67-70	137
Phil Mickelson	69-68	137
Ernie Els	68-69	137
Brett Quigley	69-68	137
Jonathan Byrd	67-70	137
Jose Coceres	69-68	137
Sergio Garcia	70-67	137
Rory Sabbatini	69-68	137
Loren Roberts	67-70	137
Miguel A. Jimenez	70-67	137
Carlos Franco	68-69	137
Dudley Hart	67-71	138
Jeff Sluman	69-69	138
John Rollins	72-66	138
Rocco Mediate	71-67	138
Kevin Sutherland	68-70	138
Chris DiMarco	69-69	138
Tim Petrovic	69-69	138
Dennis Paulson	70-68	138
John Senden	70-68	138
Joe Ogilvie	72-66	138
David Frost	66-72	138
Brian Gay	70-68	138
Kris Cox	67-71	138
Skip Kendall	68-71	139
Bo Van Pelt	68-71	139
Craig Parry	73-66	139
Jonathan Kaye	73-66	139
Daniel Chopra	69-70	139
Ted Purdy	69-70	139
David Morland IV	69-70	139
Scott Verplank	69-70	139
Tom Carter	70-69	139
Pat Perez	73-66	139
Alex Cejka	70-69	139
Stuart Appleby	69-70	139
Davis Love III	68-71	139
Steve Lowery	69-70	139
Tim Clark	68-72	140
Patrick Sheehan	71-69	140
Todd Fischer	69-71	140
Robert Allenby	69-71	140
Kenny Perry	69-71	140
Jerry Kelly	71-69	140
Bart Bryant	72-68	140
Jason Bohn	72-68	140
Billy Andrade	70-70	140
Niclas Fasth	69-71	140
Joey Sindelar	68-72	140
Zach Johnson	74-66	140
Bob Tway	71-69	140
Esteban Toledo	71-69	140
Stephen Leaney	73-67	140
D.J. Brigrman	71-69	140
Arjun Atwal	73-67	140
Craig Bowden	71-69	140
Tom Pernice, Jr.	71-70	141
Glen Day	71-70	141
Neal Lancaster	70-71	141
Omar Uresti	70-71	141
Richard S. Johnson	69-72	141
Chris Smith	71-70	141
Dan Forsman	70-71	141
J.J. Henry	68-73	141
Danny Ellis	75-66	141
Brad Adamonis	69-72	141
Grant Waite	72-69	141
Notah Begay III	69-72	141
Joel Edwards	69-72	141
Brad Faxon	68-73	141
Adam Scott	71-70	141
Peter Lonard	67-74	141
Pat Bates	72-69	141

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Basketball bonanza



Old Aces made up for their lack of ceiling with tough interior defense. Photo shows Leo Ruloked of Old Aces denying penetration to Alex Garcia of Dollar Days.

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

Rain and lack of results from other sports conspired for this week's Sunday gallery to be a basketball exclusive.

But doesn't mean that hogging it by default was not earned. In the 40-and-

over Masters Basketball League, for instance, Old Aces supplied a week's worth of drama in their gripping win against Dyno-Sores Thursday.

Old Aces were given up for dead after Dyno-Sores went to the line up by 3 points with 2.7 precious seconds left. But Elias Rangamar would weave his old magic once

again and sent the game into overtime, where Old Aces pulled off the incredible win.

All games in the resto league were rained out last week save for the Country House-El Segundo tussle last Monday. Country House incidentally won that game but not without tough resistance from El Segundo.



LSG Chefs and Jollibee Stingers players contest the rebound in the second quarter of their game. Jollibee won 66-41.



Poland Yamada of Old Aces was a pillar of strength in his team's 90-67 win against Dollars Days last Tuesday in the 40-and-over MBL.



Benjie Abadilla scored in his first touch of the ball but wasn't a factor the rest of the game against Old Aces.



Keeraku's Fyke Sabino drives to the basket in the team's loss to Angels Wings, 49-91.



Tony Luzama tries to maneuver against Robert Tamondong in the 40-and-over MBL Thriller Thursday.



Alex Lauron of LSG Chefs grabs a defensive rebound in their Inter-Restaurant Basketball League game against Jollibee Stingers.



Despite Gilbert Espinosa's 11 points in overtime, Dyno-Sores still fell 91-94 to Old Aces Thursday.



Couples leads Buick Classic by one stroke

Dr. Snowball might be making house calls next week at Shinnecock Hills if Fred Couples keeps playing like this.

29

Saipan Tribune Sports

Basketball bonanza

Rain and lack of results from other sports conspired for this week's Sunday gallery to be a basketball exclusive.

31



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004

The Boy Wonder of tennis

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

The past year has been sort of an up and down struggle for newly minted CNMI boys 18-and-under No. 1 Jung Mun Chung.

The 17-year-old Korean said he experienced the highs and lows of his tennis career starting with the Northern Pacific Qualifying Event exactly a year ago.

"I participated in the NPQ and played the worst tennis of my life. NPQ is a very big tournament, which may qualify one to participate in the bigger ITF tournament in Fiji. Of course, with the bad tennis I played, I was not able to qualify."

More than a month later, Chung set out to what turned out to be the biggest break so far of his young tennis career.

With the stinging loss in the NPQ still fresh in his mind, the Marianas Baptist Academy student joined his coach Jeff Race, CNMI's top player Todd Montgomery, lady No. 1 Kana Aikawa, and doubles specialist Peter Sinclair in the 2003 South Pacific Games in Suva, Fiji.

Chung surprised everyone, not the least himself, by playing his best tennis ever in the quadrennial event. He went on to win two matches — his first round singles match against Piniela Finikaso of Tuvalu and then teamed up with Sinclair to beat Solomon Islands' Rodney Kalisalo and Junior Kari in a thrilling three-set tiebreak.

"My whole stint in the SPG was really unforgettable. I won my first round matches both in singles and doubles. I was very nervous going into my first match because I was in a slump the past few weeks. But the most memorable moment came in my first round doubles match. We made a great comeback to win the marathon match. The intensity was high. We fought off several match points and won the match! It was fun and exciting!"

Coming back to Saipan after the SPG, the stamp on his passport had barely dried off when Chung made his decision to stay away from tennis for the meantime to concentrate on his studies.

The move proved disastrous to the young tennis players' development at a time when Chung's skills were peaking after the exposure he had in Suva.

He did return but consecutive losses to rivals Ralph Buena Ventura and Nicolas Son in the finals of three straight tournaments further eroded Chung's confidence and almost caused him to leave the sport altogether.

"I did come back early this year, but lost to both Ralph and Nicolas in the championship round. I felt so bad I really wanted to quit tennis!"

The defeat to Son in the UMDA Junior Tennis Championships last April was especially hard for Chung, as he dominated his compatriot in the first one-and-a-half sets before racket problems and cramps spelled his doom.

His roller coaster ride continued in

Jung Mun Chung in action in last month's DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships.

MARK RABAGO

last month's DFS Micronesian Championships. Returning to the site of his first-ever championship (14-and-under title in 1999), the top-ranked Chung regained his old form and turned back the challenge of No. 2 Buena Ventura to win his first tournament in a year.

Chung now hopes to redeem himself in this month's NPQ, which incidentally will be held on Saipan this month.

"My short-term goal is to win the upcoming NPQ. This is really big for



Chung in action with doubles partner Peter Sinclair at Victoria Park in Suva, Fiji.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

Chung lent his support to the CNMI triathletes at the Pacific Harbour Hotel in last year's SPG in Fiji.

me because this may decide my future. My long-term goal is to get a college scholarship from a Division I school. If I don't qualify in the NPQ, I have almost no hope. I will have to give this [tennis] all up."

Born in January 15, 1987 in Seoul, Chung and his family live in the village of Fina Sisu. His parents are ByungDal Chung and MiKyung Lee and he has a younger brother named InYong Chung.

Locally, he looks up to Race, his coach of five years, and Todd Montgomery. Internationally, he idolizes the way Roger Federer and Marat Safin play. He also likes James Blake, a Harvard graduate. And like Blake, Chung also wants to study in an Ivy League school.

A win in this month's NPQ would bring the CNMI's Boy Wonder closer to that dream.